

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A proctoscope comprising a proctoscope body (12, 16, 20) which is preferably hollow-cylindrical and is ~~designed~~ to be inserted into a patient's anus, said proctoscope body having a tapering at a distal end portion, an opening (18) at the other end and ~~also~~ a handle portion (14), wherein the proctoscope body has a hole ~~designed~~ to form an operation window (22) toward a free interior space of the proctoscope body, and means (28, 32) for illuminating the operation window and/or means (24) for detecting vessels by means of sensors, ~~in particular by means of ultrasound, may be~~ are provided in the proctoscope body, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the operation window (22) is formed in the an outer wall of the proctoscope body such that it extends into the tapering distal end portion (20).

Claim 2 (currently amended): The device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized by further including~~ a manually operable obturator (36) ~~which is designed~~ for insertable cooperation with the proctoscope body and is adapted to the free interior space such that, when the obturator is inserted into the proctoscope body through the opening (18), a closure portion (46) of the obturator at least partially closes off the operation window (22) ~~on the inside and preferably completely~~.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The device as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the obturator has a handle portion (42) which in the inserted state protrudes out of the opening, and the closure portion (46) is designed as a tongue-like

extension of an essentially cylindrical obturator casing (38).

Claim 4 (currently amended): The device as claimed in ~~one of~~
~~claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the
operation window (22) is formed as a cut-out in the hollow-
cylindrical proctoscope body and in the tapering distal end
portion.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The device as claimed in ~~one of~~
~~claims 1 to 4, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the
operation window opens up a free hole area of 350 to 400 mm² in
the outer wall of the proctoscope body.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The device as claimed in ~~one of~~
~~claims 1 to 5, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the sensor
comprises a duplex or ultrasound sensor (24) which is
permanently installed in a wall portion of the proctoscope body
adjacent to the operation window, ~~it being possible for wherein~~
said sensor ~~to be~~ is connected to vessel detection electronics
provided outside the casing of the proctoscope body.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The device as claimed in ~~one of~~
~~claims 1 to 6, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the handle
portion is designed as a grip (14) at the opening end of the
proctoscope body, said grip being angled with respect to the
proctoscope body and ~~preferably~~ forming a hollow space for the
passage of supply lines (26) for the illuminating and/or vessel
detection means and further ~~preferably~~ indicating a
circumferential position of the vessel detection means on the
proctoscope body.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The device as claimed in ~~one of~~
~~claims 1 to 7, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the means
for illuminating comprises lighting means (32) ~~which are~~
directed onto the operation window ~~and in particular can be~~
~~adjusted~~ are provided in the tapering end portion.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The device as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that~~ claim 8, wherein a mirror and/or reflector element (30) is provided in the tapering end portion such that a an observer can see the operation window (22) from the opening (18).

Claim 10 (currently amended): The device as claimed in claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the mirror and/or reflector element (30) is ~~designed to be~~ light-permeable to a the lighting means (32) provided behind it.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method of operating the proctoscope as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 10, characterized by claim 1, including the steps of:~~

- [-] closing the operation window in the proctoscope body;
- [-] inserting the proctoscope body into a patient's anus;
- [-] detecting blood vessels by means of ultrasound Doppler sonography and orienting the proctoscope body in reaction to the detection; and
- [-] opening the operation window.